The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers / L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes

CASLT/ACPLS

World Teachers' Day Focus Especially Relevant to Canadian Second Language Teachers

Ottawa, Ontario, September 30, 2005. World Teachers' Day will be celebrated in over 100 countries on October 5th with the focus on *Professional Development to Meet the Needs of a Changing World,* a theme that resonates particularly strongly with second language teachers and teacher associations across Canada.

Miles Turnbull, 1st Vice President of The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) is enthusiastic about this year's theme. "It recognizes the importance of attracting new and enthusiastic people into the teaching profession, supporting these new teachers through flexible professional development opportunities and sharing information using new technologies," he says.

CASLT recognizes that professional development is key to ensuring that Canadian teachers are among the best in the world as teaching methods and learning resources evolve to meet the changing needs of today's students. Through a recent survey, CASLT identified technology in the classroom as a primary need for second language teachers to ensure they can continue to bring learning to life in their classrooms every day. CASLT is committed to promoting new teacher support mechanisms through professional development, mentoring and induction programs to improve language learning opportunities for all students in Canada.

World Teachers Day has been recognized all over the globe since 1994, and was the brainchild of Canadian teacher, Norman Goble, a former secretary general of the Canadian Teachers' Federation and Director of the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession.

World Teachers' Day is an opportunity to draw attention to the role of teachers worldwide. A variety of activities will take place in most provinces and territories to celebrate the important role teachers play in the growth of our young people worldwide.

-30-

Contact:
The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (613) 727-0994
Nicole Thibault, CASLT Executive Director (bilingual) direct@caslt.org, www.caslt.org

Spokesperson:
Miles Turnbull, CASLT spokesperson (bilingual) (902) 626-4475

Prepared by:
Helen Rossiter, Interplay Creative Media (613) 230-6159